

Dietitian/Nutritionists PAC Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2006
1445 to 1600 HRS, EST

Minutes

Call To Order: *CDR Jean Makie, D/N-PAC Chair*

Introductions:

SG Conference Room Participants:

CDR Jean Makie, D/N-PAC Chair (member)
CDR Alexandra Cossi
CDR Kristen Moe (member)
LT Heather Dimeris

Phone Participants:

LCDR Kari Blasius (member)
CDR Jackie Thomas (OCCO Liaison)
LCDR Carol Treat (member)
CDR Claire Banks
CAPT Tammy Brown (member)
CDR Ann Staten
CDR Vangie Tate (member)
LCDR Susan Jones (member)
LT Blakely Dekinger
LT Merel Schollnberger

Phone Participants (continued):

CAPT Janice Huy, CPO
CDR Kristen Warwar (member)
LCDR Janis Armendariz (member)
LCDR Suzan Dunaway
LCDR Elaine Little
LCDR Samantha Maloney (member)
LCDR Janis Armendariz (member)
LCDR Susan Warren
LCDR Graydon Yatabe
LCDR Carma Pauli
LT Christopher Dunbar (member)
LT Sandra Magera
Ms. Leila Beker (member)
CAPT Miranda Yang-Oshida
LT Joe Frost

Old Business:

*** Category Coin (CDR Makie)**

- The issue of creating a D/N PAC coin was raised again. Other Categories have or are in the process of designing coins to sell at the COA annual meeting.
- Emblem – D/N PAC needs to design an emblem for the back of the coin; the front of the coin will be the USPHS seal. CDR Makie will look at other Category-based coins for design ideas. A current design option is to have a balance scale (similar to those of Justice) with the USPHS anchor and caduceus as its center staff. The scales would symbolize a balanced lifestyle approach.
- Pricing – The least expensive option is with Midwest Trophy (\$200 fee + \$2.10/coin). Most Categories sell the coins for 5.0-10.00/each to generate profits. If the minimum amount (300 coins) is initially ordered, each dietitian could purchase up to three coins each. Profit from additional sales would go into the established D/N-PAC Scholarship education fund.
- Members unanimously voted to have a D/N PAC coin. All participants were encouraged to send suggestions for a Category logo to CDR Makie at makiej@cder.fda.gov.

Subcommittee Reports:

OFRD: LT Chris Dunbar

- The D/N PAC ranks third for readiness, with 79.6% remaining basic ready. The USPHS average is at 72.4%. Currently, 19 dietitian officers are not basic ready.
- Deployment missions to Louisiana are ongoing. Contact CAPT Martinelli at OFRD if you are interested in deploying.
- Officers can see their readiness status on the OFRD website. For promotion purposes, basic readiness is 5 points.
- The next subcommittee call date and time is TBD; all dietitians are welcome to join.

Recruitment: LCDR Graydon Yatabe

- The subcommittee meeting was February 1, 2006.
- The new Associate Recruiter policy is awaiting approval from the HHS Secretary. After the new policy is in place, an officer must be basic ready to be an Associate Recruiter. Associate Recruiters that began prior to the new policy will be waived from this requirement.
- Recruiting materials (brochures, CDs, coasters, etc.) must be ordered in advance.
- D/N PAC has 17 Associate Recruiters (eight new)
- A meeting of the Dietitian Associate Recruiters is in the process of being planned to take place at the COA annual meeting in Denver.
- Placement of Junior and Senior COSTEPs – Last year there were four dietetic COSTEPs that were not placed and there may be more this year. The D/N-PAC encourages Dietitians to advocate within their OPDIV and Agencies for the hiring of dietetic COSTEPs this year.

Mentoring: LCDR Susan Warren

- Fourteen Mentor/Mentee matches made with official letters drafted.
- Twelve Mentors in Mentor Pool.
- Matches were made but Official Mentor letters pending.
- Plan to resend Mentor Program Evaluation due to 50% response rate.
- Mentoring Sub-Committee Conf Call Overview:
 - Positive response to pursue collaboration with Professional Development Sub-Committee for GAIN Project (Growth and Achievement In Networking).
 - Request for Mentoring Sub-Committee member to volunteer to gather information and prepare a History of Mentor (2 paragraph to 2 page??). Program which can be used as an introduction in the future Mentor Guide.
 - Mentor Guide in progress.
 - Mentoring Guidelines/Training - further discussion needed with tentative plans for training at 2007 COA.

- On Call Mentor - Plan in progress with launch date in conjunction with Mentor Guide.
- Sub-Committee assessment of time commitment, membership number, overall evaluation of how things are going.
- Mentoring Sub-Committee Members plan to meet at 2006 COA.

Professional Development: CDR Kristen Moe

- Subcommittee members have begun a project to review the Category's current CV template as well as other formats from other categories. The subcommittee will provide final recommendations to the D/N-PAC voting members when their review is completed. The goal will be to adopt a final format prior to the closure of OPFs for Promotion Year 2007.
- Working with Mentoring Group on GAIN Project (see above).

Wellness: CAPT Shirley Blakely

- The Sub-Committee meeting was January 10, 2006.
- CDR Makie will contact the Therapist Category to inquire if there will be a BMI screening booth at this year's COA annual meeting, and if so, to offer assistance from the Dietitian Category as in past years.
- CAPT Blakely is continuing her role working with USHPHS readiness workgroup to revise readiness standards.

New Business:

*** Revised D/N-PAC Charter: (CDR Makie)**

- Revised Model PAC Charter (11/05) was provided for discussion; all PACs need to use this template.
- Revised D/N-PAC Charter (1/06) was also provided as separate document
 - Discussion was held to regarding the selection of D/N-PAC term lengths so that the following section may be finalized in the revised D/N-PAC Charter:

(VII) TERM OF APPOINTMENT

1. D/N-PAC Members will be selected to serve 2 or 3 year terms (each PAC will choose whether to designate a 2 or a 3 year term in their individual PAC Charters). Terms will be staggered to ensure rotational balance.
 - Members unanimously voted that new D/N-PAC members can serve three two-year terms. CDR Makie will send the complete Charter Packet to CAPT Huy for review and signature. The packet will then be sent to the OSG for approval of a revised D/N PAC Charter. This change in terms will be effective once OSG approval is received.

*** PAC Chair announcement (CDR Makie)**

- CDR Kristen Moe, who served as Chair of the Professional Subcommittee for the past year, will serve a one-year term as the new D/N PAC Chair, effective April 1, 2006. Welcome CDR Moe!
- Four new voting members were recently approved by the OSG: CDR Alfredda Holoway, LCDR Susan Jordan, LCDR Carma Pauli, and LCDR Pamella Vodicka. These four officers will begin serving a 3-year term effective April 1, 2006. At that time, the D/N-PAC will consist of the maximum 20 voting members, plus two ex officio members (CAPT Blakely and CAPT Huy). Because appointment letters have been issued to the four new members, the two-year term proposed in the revised D/N-PAC charter will go into effect with future memberships (after signatory approval by the OSG).

*** Update on PAC memberships and plans for subcommittee changes (CDR Makie)**

- The Sub-Committee chairs will have a conference call in the next few weeks regarding how communications, objectives, goals, etc. are working amongst the current number of members involved in Sub-Committee activities. The aim is to offer maximum opportunities for members and non-members in activities, without hindering outcomes because of committee size. Future plans are to incorporate subcommittee participation and size limits into the bylaws.

*** Call for D/N-PAC Secretary for a -year term that begins 4/1/06 (CDR Makie)**

- Voting and non-voting members are eligible for the position.
- Position does not require “in-person” attendance at D/N PAC meetings; secretarial duties can be accomplished via telephone participation and email communication.
- Call for self-nomination was made for D/N-PAC Secretary, starting April, 2006. If interested, respond via email to CDR Jean Makie and copy CDR Kristen Moe by March 3, 2006.

*** D/N-PAC Award Nominations: Announcement of 2006 Awardees (CAPT Huy)**

CAPT Huy announced and congratulated the following 2006 Awardees:

- Emerging Dietitian Leader – LT Blakely Denkinger

LT Denkinger joined the Nutrition Department at the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health as a Clinical Research Dietitian after completing her dietetic internship in 2001. In February 2004, she was appointed to the USPHS Commissioned Corps. LT Denkinger demonstrates outstanding commitment to the mission of the USPHS and her accomplishments reflect her strong leadership skills.

LT Denkinger is the primary dietitian responsible for nutrition research in a number of biomedical and behavioral studies conducted at the Clinical Center by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. She serves as a Co-Investigator on four of these studies. One such study is an

examination of the health effects of calcium supplementation in overweight adults. LT Denkinger is responsible for obtaining anthropometric measurements, collecting and analyzing data in the form of research food records, providing this information to the Principal Investigator, and for counseling over 300 subjects at numerous time points in the study. She has communicated the results from this study and others in seven peer reviewed scientific publications and poster presentations over the past 3 years at meetings of the American Dietetic Association, Endocrine Society, and North American Association for the Study of Obesity. In addition to her research responsibilities, LT Denkinger is the primary clinical dietitian for two inpatient units and seven outpatient clinics. She manages to skillfully balance the demanding needs of in and outpatient clinical care with her research responsibilities.

LT Denkinger has made significant contributions to work groups, the NIH, and to the population of patients served at the Clinical Center. Her continued work will undoubtedly lead to further contributions in the field of obesity research and will hopefully ultimately impact the general population through new research findings and recommendations. LT Denkinger has assisted in a number of departmental initiatives over the past year including the successful development and implementation of a new medical information system and a new Nutrition Department information system. Her contributions in these areas were also recognized with a Unit Commendation Award. Her contributions in clinical nutrition care through the provision of medical nutrition therapy are well recognized by patients and medical staff. LT Denkinger's contributions extend well beyond her clinical and research roles to a number of PHS activities through her volunteer activities for the past two years on the PHS Recognition Task Force, the NIH Promotion Ceremony Committee and as an aide to the Surgeon General in 2004 and 2005.

LT Denkinger has clearly demonstrated her exceptional value and career potential through her willingness to accept projects and assignments that extend beyond the typical responsibilities of an officer of her rank. She successfully brings all assignments and projects to completion. One such example is her assistance with the dietetic internship at the Clinical Center through the development of a research training module. As a former graduate of the program, LT Denkinger serves as an excellent role model for future dietitians and her enthusiasm inspires not only the interns but other preceptors as well. She continues to expand her involvement in clinical nutrition research through her on-going work with Principal Investigators. Her career potential is further evidenced in her pursuit of an advanced degree. She is completing a Master of Public Health degree at George Washington University with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and is expected to graduate in December 2005.

LT Denkinger serves as the secondary supervisor and manager of the Metabolic Kitchen when the primary supervisor is absent. This kitchen is responsible for the preparation and service of research diets to patients enrolled on protocols with a controlled nutrient diet. In this role, she supervises the work, manages schedules and adjusts work assignments as needed to ensure that the work unit is productive and efficient. She is responsible for the development of research diets and for the education and training of nutrition and nursing staff as well as research subjects.

She demonstrates tremendous initiative and persistence in these endeavors and strives for excellence in all of her activities.

For her significant contributions LT Dekinger has been awarded the USPHS Dietitian Advisory Committee's Emerging Dietitian Leader Award for 2006.

- Dietitian of the Year – LCDR Samantha Maloney

LCDR Maloney began her career as an entry level Dietitian in Anchorage, Alaska in 1995. She has excelled in her career providing expertise in Clinical Dietetics with an emphasis in pediatric nutrition. She was one of two Dietitians accepted to a neonatal nutrition fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina in 1997. Passing an intense and difficult exam has earned LCDR Maloney the respected board certification as a Certified Specialist in Pediatrics (CSP) which has also earned her an excellent reputation among medical providers all over the state of Alaska. She exhibits a first class standard of care with her recommendations for the American Indian and Alaska Native pediatric population. LCDR Maloney initiated and developed the current nutrition standards for the neonatal intensive care unit. She willingly offers her guidance and expertise as well to other population groups with special needs, truly accomplishing the mission of the United States Public Health Service. LCDR Maloney communicates her expertise with a welcoming, non threatening demeanor, always promoting the importance for children to be well and nourished effectively with the latest evidence based nutrition guidelines.

In 2001, LCDR Maloney was promoted to the Medical Nutrition Therapy Manager. In this position she supervises three clinical dietitians and acts as the foodservice liaison for the contracted foodservice. Her communication skills have enabled the foodservice to maintain excellent rapport with the hospital nursing department. Although she previously worked in the capacity as a Senior Staff Dietitian, LCDR Maloney always involved herself in policies, procedures, and ways to increase the reputation of the department. More often than not she took the lead on projects with planning, development and execution. LCDR Maloney has taken the once unorganized department without basic policies and procedures to a highly organized, efficient department with a visibility that has awarded the utmost respect to the field of Dietetics. To enhance the credibility of the Dietitian, LCDR Maloney is the Chairwoman of the new evolving Nutrition Support Team. The outcome will provide evidence-based standards of care, rounding on patients and clinical pathways for ordering parenteral or enteral nutrition. Because of the positive direction LCDR Maloney has taken the department, physicians, nurses and staff freely consult for the expertise of the Dietitian. With her acceptance of the managerial position, LCDR Maloney has taken the reins and tailored a department policy and procedure manual, developed a computerized share drive in which nutrition education materials can be accessed by all nutrition team members throughout the Alaska Native Medical Center Campus, developed guidelines for pediatric parenteral nutrition and developed a pediatric nutrition reference which can be used nationally by all providers. Of significance is the development of a Medicaid and Medicare nutrition supplement form which has saved the hospital money related to provision of nutritional supplements. As a young and dynamic manager, she has grown to a level of competence that demonstrates her ability to lead. With all of the responsibilities as a

manager, LCDR Maloney has also recently obtained her Masters Degree in Nutrition. She combines this education with her certification in Pediatrics and as a Nutrition Support Specialist to further advance the health of her Alaska Natives and American Indian clients.

LCDR Maloney continues to hold the position as the Alaska Native Hospital Intern Site Coordinator for the University of Alaska Dietetic Intern Program. She is highly influential in the selection of interns, the policies, procedures and competencies so the program remains in compliance with the American Dietetic Association Standards (ADA). She truly wants the students to leave their internship with a positive experience.

In the local and national arena, LCDR Maloney was recently awarded the President Elect position for the Alaska Dietetic Association (AKDA). She actively assists with the association in all avenues. As a Commissioned Officer, LCDR Maloney is a member of the Commissioned Officers Mini Orientation Program developed for new and transferring officers to Alaska. She volunteers her time for COA activities and in 2004, she offered her expertise and was a co-chair for the Dietitian category day. In 2005, LCDR was a presenter at the USPHS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

LCDR Maloney serves as an inspiration to everyone she surrounds. Her disposition and warmth towards all people generates an atmosphere of teamwork in the hospital, and helps others develop the desire to provide quality service and support the mission of the organization. She displays an energetic and positive attitude which people gravitate towards. Her accomplishments are a motivation to all. For her significant contributions, LCDR Maloney has been awarded the USPHS Dietitian Advisory Committee's Dietitian of the Year Award for 2006.

CPO Report: *CAPT Jan Huy*

- Discussions regarding the implementation date for the three and freeze policy remain ongoing. A CPO workgroup is looking at recent figures for the data originally used to create this policy and will be continuing their discussions with the OSG and senior leadership.
- Attendance at the annual COA meeting is encouraged.
- Nine Metro DC area Dietitian Officers attended the USPHS Transformation Event on January 18, 2006. The historical event for the Corps, which was also web-casted, was well attended by officers across all categories.

Agency Reports:

IHS – Tammy Brown announced that the first ADA accredited dietetic Internship site in IHS is at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC). There is one dietetic student who is Navajo in the program. Edith Clark, Sylvia Benincaso and Linda White were responsible for the application for accreditation. A committee of IHS RDs is also pursuing training options for dietetic technicians in the future as part of an effort to increase access to nutrition services in Indian Health Care.

HRSA – No report.

FDA – No report.

NIH – No report.

CDC – Vacancy posted on list serve for Senior Nutritionist position.

USDA – LCDR Carma Pauli announced that speaker abstracts are being solicited for the Food Safety Inspection Service conference in September 2006. The deadline for submission is Feb 17 via email at www.fsis.usda.gov/denver2006. She also announced that vacant positions for her agency can be found at www.foodsafetyjobs.gov.

CMS – No report.

Announcements:

- The Category roster for dietitian officers will be posted on the list serve soon. When posted, please verify your contact information.
- CAPT Huy commended CDR Makie for serving her one-year term as D/N PAC chair.
- The next D/N PAC meeting will be chaired by CDR Moe.
- The 2006 Registered Dietitians and Public Health Nutritionist Monthly Vacancy Listing for IHS, Updated: 2/24/2006 is attached as a separate document.

MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING: April 19, 2006, 1400 to 1600 HRS, EST

Please forward new email addresses to CAPT Jan Huy (HHS-jmh4@CDC.GOV) to receive current listserv announcements.